Message Text

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ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W

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P 181643Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5988

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BFOL, DM, US SUBJ: CEMENT PROJECT

FOR AF/W - WYGANT

REF: STATE 052529

- 1. MANY THANKS FOR HELPFUL REFTEL WHICH I DISCUSSED MARCH 18 WITH PLAN DIRECTOR ROBERT TAGNON WHO WAS UNAWARE OF BUT MUCH INTERESTED IN PLANNED MARCH 22 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ADJIBADE. TAGNON MADE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH YOU MIGHT PASS ON TO PAWLAWSKI OF MCKEE AND TO ADJIBADE:
- (A) CEMENT PROJECT IS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IN MRGD'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND AMERICANS MAY BE SO INFORMED IN NAME OF PRESIDENT KEREKOU.
- (B) UNDERSTAND MCKEE'S BELIEF ENGINEERING STUDY MAY BE NEEDED IN VIEW MARKETING NATURE OF UN STUDY, AND WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTED COTONOU VISIT TO DISCUSS TERMS OF POSSIBLE PROTOCOL AUTHORIZING MCKEE TO STUDY AND SUBMIT PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT COMPLEX.
- (C) AT MARCH 22 MEETING, RECOMMEND MCKEE GIVE ADJIBADE DETAILS ON SCOPE AND COST OF ENGINEERING STUDY, AND ABOVE ALL TIME NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY. IN STRESSING LAST POINT, TAGNON SAID THIS WOULD BE KEY TO ANY AGREEMENT AS PRESIDENT IS ADAMANT THAT PROJECT NOT BE DELAYED BY PROLONGED, MARGINAL STUDIES.
- (D) REGARDING FINACING COST OF ENGINEERING STUDY, SEE NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICULAR STICKING POINT AS IT WOULD BE NORMAL THAT COST BE

INCLUDED IN OVERALL FINANCING OF PROJECT OR BORNE BY MRGD IF

PROJECT NOT IMPLEMENTED. UNDERSTAND ANY EXIM GUARANTEE OF STUDY WOULD BE FOR MRGD ACCOUNT.

- 2. TAGNON ASKED THAT ADJIBADE REPORT RESULT OF HIS MARCH 22 MEETING BY "COURIER PRIORITAIRE" WITH COPY SENT DIRECTLY TO HIM.
- 3. WHILE THERE IS NO MRGD PLAN TO PUT PROJECT ON INTERNATIONAL TENDER, GOVERNMENT HAS JUST APPROVED LONG AWAITED DOCUMENT ON SPECITEICATIONS ENTITLED "CLAUSES ET CONDITIONS GENERALES DE L'APPEL D'OFFRES" AND HAS INSTRUCTED ITS MISSIONS ABROAD TO STIMULATE FOREIGN INTEREST IN PROJECT (COPY OF DOCUMENT BEING POUCHED TO AF/W ON MARCH 20, 1974). WE HAVE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN INTEREST IN PROJECT. THERFORE IF MCKEE, FULLER AND LOEB RHOADESSERIOUSLY INTERESTED, RECOMMEND THEY MOVE PROMPTLY. WE STAND READY TO HELP THEM AT THIS END.

ANDERSON

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